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business activity assembled by the Division of Analysis and Research were then described by Dr. H. Parker Willis, director of the Division, and the banking statistics of the Federal Reserve Board by Mr. M. L. Jacobson, statistician. Mr. R. A. Cheney, secretary of the Association of Knit Goods Manufacturers, described the statistical work which the Association undertook some time ago and spoke of the interest which the industry took in these figures of production, shipments, etc. Mr. Henry Breck, assistant Federal Reserve Agent of San Francisco, then described the methods employed by his bank in preparing its monthly reports on wholesale and retail trade, and Mr. G. B. Roberts of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York described the preparation of the reports on financial conditions issued by his bank. Mr. W. H. Steiner, assistant director of the Division of Analysis and Research, reviewed the work of the Division and the special studies in Banking and Credit.

Following the presentation of the formal papers at both the morning and afternoon sessions on the second day, there was general discussion which developed many points of interest. It was generally felt that the Federal Reserve Board was in an excellent position to obtain information relative to business activity, and that the work which it had thus far undertaken should be actively prosecuted and expanded in the future.

W. H. STEINER

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Index of Retail Food Prices. The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor announces that hereafter its index to retail food prices will be based upon 43 articles of food and weighted according to the quantity of each article consumed by the average workman's family, as shown by the 9,000 budgets secured in 1918, instead of being computed as heretofore on the average family market basket, based upon a study made in 1901.

Since January, 1919, the Bureau has been securing retail prices upon the 43 articles of food to which its new weighting system is applied. These figures are secured on the 15th of each month from retail dealers in 51 of the most important cities. Until January, 1921, however, only 22 of the articles could be used in the cost of living index because there was no available information as to the average family consumption of the remaining articles. The family budget investigation of 1901-02 did not give the food expenditures in sufficient detail to justify a weighting upon more than the 22 articles (therefore the other articles had to be combined and used as "all others"). In the family budget investigation of 1918 a more detailed distribution of food expenditures was sought, and this gives an annual consumption per family, which can be used as food weights, on a much broader basis. Beginning with the March issue of the *Monthly Labor Review*, in which the January prices will be published, the figures will be based on the 43 articles of food. It must be understood that these new figures merely give a more detailed distribution of the total food costs. It is interesting to note that in the adjustment of the 43 articles of food to those already used by the Bureau for the 22 articles, the variation in the index number was but four-tenths of one per cent.

Index of Wages. The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor has made public a general index of wages per hour from 1840 to 1920 based upon hourly wages in 1913 as 100. It is fully realized that the material for computing such an index is disconnected and far from complete. For many years there has been hesitation as to the propriety of announcing an index of this character, but the importance of having a general wage index that might be used for comparison

with similar index number changes in cost of living and wholesale prices has determined the Bureau to go over the mass of material and prepare such an index. Although not claiming for this the same degree of accuracy that attaches to the work of the Bureau in investigations where all the material is gathered and compiled within the Bureau, yet it is believed that the table is based upon data essentially correct. At all events, the very best available material has been used and the table is the best that can be constructed upon this material. The tabulation showing index numbers of wages per hour, 1840 to 1920, is as follows:

INDEX NUMBERS OF WAGES PER HOUR, 1840 TO 1920

(Currency basis during Civil War period)

(1913 = 100)

Year	Index number	Year	Index number
1840	33	1910	93
1850	35	1911	95
1860	39	1912	97
1865	58	1913	100
1870	67	1914	102
1875	67	1915	103
1880	60	1916	111
1885	64	1917	128
1890	69	1918	162
1895	68	1919	184*
1900	73	1920	234†
1905	82		

* This index number applies to the spring of the year. Wage rates advanced during the year.

† This index number applies to the summer of 1920, and probably represents the wage peak of the year.

International Labor Review. The first number of the *International Labor Review* has been received in this country. It is edited by the International Labor Office under the League of Nations. In the first issue, January, 1921, there are a number of special articles and, in addition, six sections: Industrial Relations; Production, Prices and Cost of Living; Unemployment; Protection of Women and Children; Coöperation; and Agriculture. The special articles include accounts of the International Labor Organization by Albert Thomas, its director, and of the International Trade Union movement and its relation to the Labor Office, by J. Oudegeest, secretary of the International Federation of Trade Unions. Sidney Webb contributes an article on the "Process of Amalgamation in British Trade Unionism," and John R. Commons discusses industrial government. This issue contains 150 pages and is devoted to many different aspects of problems of labor in various countries.

The Advisory Census Committee. The Advisory Committee to the Director of the Census, appointed in 1919 by the American Statistical Association and the American Economic Association at the request of the Secretary of Commerce, has been asked to assume additional duties. At the request of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Census, it has taken under consideration the methods of apportioning representatives. The committee met in Washington on March 11 and 12 to examine the mathematical and statistical aspects of the problem. The meetings were attended also by Professors A. A. Young, E. V. Huntington, Irving Fisher, F. W. Owens, and Dr. J. A. Hill. A report to the Senate Committee is now in preparation. This same committee, with the addition of Professor A. A. Young, will serve also as an Advisory Committee on Statistics to the Department of Commerce, in compliance with a request from Secretary of Commerce Hoover. Two annual re-

ports of the Advisory Committee have been published in the *QUARTERLY*, Vol. XLVII, pp. 76-107 and 465-83.

Occupational Classification of Railroad Positions. The United States Railroad Labor Board recently prepared a comprehensive functional occupational classification of railroad positions as a basis upon which monthly reports are to be made by railroads to the Interstate Commerce Commission and to the Labor Board. With the establishment of this classification and the institution of the reporting forms and rules which the Board has developed in addition to the classification proper, railway wage statistics will be put upon a sound statistical basis and the data reported will be made of service for administrative and public purposes. The Interstate Commerce Commission has formally approved the forms and rules and has issued a wage order making them effective for reports on July 1, 1921. It has also approved the classification and has made it the basis for assigning positions in the reports.

A Clothing Survey. The clothing survey made in coöperation with the National Association of Retail Clothiers by the Bureau of Business Research of the Northwestern University School of Commerce, under the direction of Dr. Horace Secrist, has been completed. The report of this survey is to be published in six volumes, and will cover such topics as Sales and Sales' Ratios in Retail Clothing Stores; Expenses and Expense Ratios, including rent, wages, bushelling, and general and total expenses; Advertising Methods and Expenses; Purchase Discounts, Inventories, Average Stock and Stock Turnover; and also a study of clothing stores as operating units.

Public Health Committee. The Committee of the American Public Health Association has for some time been collecting information regarding the public health procedures in American cities. The field work is now practically completed and surveys of eighty-three cities are being compiled. The Committee will issue its report within the calendar year.

A special dinner-meeting of the American Statistical Association was held in the dining rooms of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York City, on Friday evening, April 15. Sir Arthur Newsholme, K. C. B., an honorary member of the Association and lecturer on Public Health Administration at the Johns Hopkins University, formerly Principal Medical Officer of the Local Government Board of London, was a guest of the Association and spoke on the topic, "The Better Use of Vital Statistics in Public Health Administration." In his address Dr. Newsholme spoke with keen insight of the public health administration in the United States and showed a sympathetic understanding of our successes, difficulties, and shortcomings. At the conclusion of the address, one after another of the members of the Association arose to pay tribute to Dr. Newsholme and the services he has rendered the cause of public health. Dr. Newsholme has been in this country for two years, lecturing at the School of Hygiene and Public Health of the Johns Hopkins University. He has also visited various states and has been a great constructive force in stirring up public health activities. He sailed for England on April 16.

A special meeting and dinner of the Washington members of the American Statistical Association was held in Washington, D. C., on April 8. The program consisted of two papers: "National Income," by Wesley C. Mitchell, director of the National Bureau of Economic Research, New York; and "A Proper Distribution of Credit between Consumption and Investment," by Franklin T. Miller, Washington, D. C.

Dr. R. B. Robbins, assistant professor of Mathematics and Insurance at the University of Michigan, is on leave of absence during 1921 and is now serving as assistant actuary in the office of the Superintendent of Insurance of the State of New York at Albany.

Mr. William M. Steuart has been appointed director of the Census to succeed Mr. Samuel L. Rogers.

James W. Glover, professor of Mathematics and Insurance at the University of Michigan, has been made a member of the Committee on Mathematical Analysis of Statistics, originally appointed by the National Research Council.

Mr. F. Leslie Heyford, formerly in the Wilmington office of the Du Pont de Nemours Company, has joined the staff of the General Motors Corporation in New York City.

The editors announce that commencing with the June issue of the **QUARTERLY PUBLICATIONS** the Association will furnish without charge fifty reprints to contributors of articles.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Committee on Fellows:

John Koren appointed for five years, to take the place of Frederick L. Hoffman, whose term expired 1920.

The full committee is as follows:

Adna F. Weber,	term expires	1921
Edward L. Thorndike,	" "	1922
Carroll W. Doten, Chairman,	" "	1923
Leonard P. Ayres,	" "	1924
John Koren,	" "	1925

Committee on Institutional Statistics:

Edith Abbott
 Kate H. Claghorn
 Edith M. Furbush
 Joseph A. Hill
 Robert M. Woodbury
 Horatio M. Pollock, Chairman

Joint Committee on Statistics of Marriage and the Family:

Edwin W. Kopf, representing the Statistical Association.

Committee on Business Research:

Ernest S. Bradford, formerly director of Business Research, The McGraw Hill Co., organizing Chairman of the Committee
 Chester I. Barnard, American Tel. & Tel. Company, representing the Public Utilities group
 C. S. Duncan, Southern Wholesale Grocers' Association, representing the Merchandising group
 L. K. Frank, New School for Social Research, representing the Economic Research group
 F. Leslie Hayford, General Motors Corporation, representing the Manufacturers' group
 C. A. Hoppock, H. K. McCann Company, representing the Advertising Agencies
 A. H. Melville, The Nast Publications, representing Publishers